Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

WEST INDIA

National Geographic

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

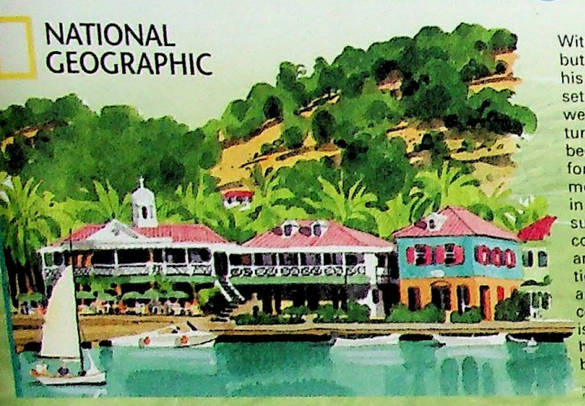
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Traveler's Map of the

WEST INDIES

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

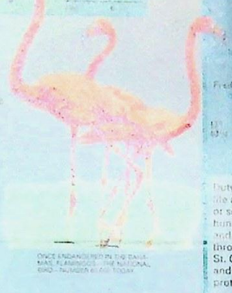


With bold geographic ambitions but without an accurate map in his hand, Christopher Columbus set out from Europe to find a western passage to India. Centuries later the West Indies have become a popular destination for travelers who seek little more than relaxation and fun in the sun. Yet beyond the sand, surf, and picturesque islands comes a faint echo of a bold and brutal history of colonization. Spanish, French, British, and Dutch invaders all came to compete over and occupy the islands. Most eventually went home, but their legacy remains broad, deep, and indelible.

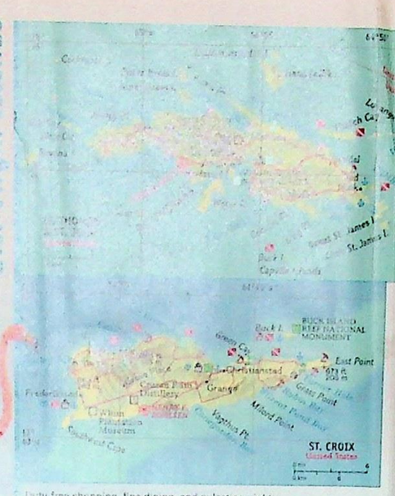
Bahamas

Of the roughly 700 islands that make up the archipelago of the Bahamas, only 15 or so have been developed. New Providence, one of the smallest of the major islands, is home to two-thirds of the population, much of it clustered around Nassau, the political and tourist capital. Columbus once described these islands as "the best . . . in the world." Their beauty and charm—the fish, the flamingos, and more—now attract thousands of tourists who also come to golf, shop, and gamble.

5,382 sq mi (13,939 sq km)
312,600
Nassau
English, Creole
Bahamian dollar, U.S. dollar
Parliamentary democracy

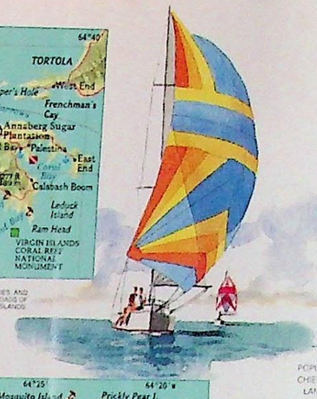


U.S. Virgin Islands



Duty-free shopping, fine dining, and pulsating nightlife are just a few of the attractions that lure a million or so tourists to St. Thomas every year. Visitors who hunger for a bit of history—of the days when rum and sugar fueled the local economy—can wander through sugar mills and plantations on the island of St. Croix. The island of St. John offers more solitude and tranquility. Roughly two-thirds of the island is protected by a national park.

136 sq mi (352 sq km)
110,000
Charlotte Amalie
English, Spanish, Creole
U.S. dollar
U.S. territory; democracy



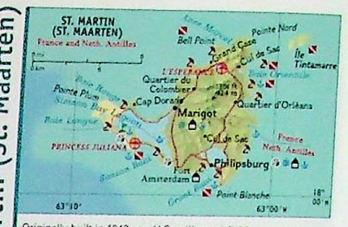
BRISK WINDS, CLEAR SKIES, AND COZY COVES DRAW BOATLOADS OF SAILORS TO THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

British Virgin Islands

Pirates once hid in countless coves here—and then sailed out to raid treasure-laden ships making their way toward Spain. The pirates are gone, but the action is still afloat. "Bareboating"—chartering a boat, then sailing it yourself around the 60 or so islands that line Sir Francis Drake Channel—is perhaps the most popular way to explore.

59 sq mi (150 sq km)
21,000
Road Town
English
U.S. dollar
British overseas territory; democracy

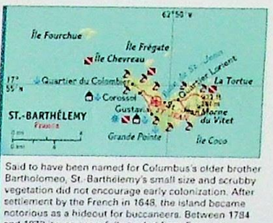
St. Martin (St. Maarten)



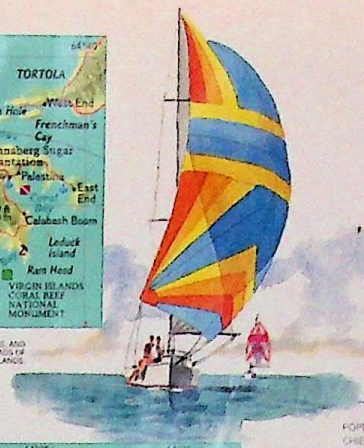
Originally built in 1943 as a U.S. military airfield, Princess Juliana Airport now serves as a gateway for tourists who come to explore the world's smallest binational island. Traveling between Dutch St. Maarten in the south and French St. Martin in the north, visitors cross an international border as unobtrusive to drivers on the road as it is to birds in the sky.

37 sq mi (96 sq km)
29,000 (French side); 39,000 (Dutch side)
Marigot (French side); Philipsburg (Dutch side)
French, Dutch, English
Euro, Netherlands Antilles guilder, U.S. dollar
Dependency of Guadeloupe, democracy (French side); part of the Netherlands Antilles, democracy (Dutch side)

St.-Barthélemy


ST.-BARTHÉLEMY
France
Gustavia
Grande Pointe
Anse de Grand Cul-de-Sac
Pointe Lurin
Pointe Milou
Anse de Colombier
Anse de Corossol
Anse de Toiny
Anse de Grande Saline
Anse de Gouverneur
Anse de Marigot
Anse de Vitet
Anse de Public
Anse de Grande Pointe
Anse

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



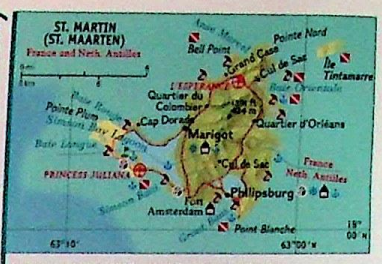
BRISK WINDS, CLEAR SKIES, AND CUTE COVES DRAW BOATLOADS OF SAILORS TO THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

British Virgin Islands

Pirates once hid in countless coves here—and then sailed out to raid treasure-laden ships making their way toward Spain. The pirates are gone, but the action is still afloat. "Bareboating"—chartering a boat, then sailing it yourself around the 60 or so islands that line Sir Francis Drake Channel—is perhaps the most popular way to explore.

AREA	59 sq mi (150 sq km)
POPULATION	21,000
CAPITAL	Road Town
LANGUAGE	English
CURRENCY	U.S. dollar
GOVERNMENT	British overseas territory; democracy

St. Martin (St. Maarten)



Originally built in 1943 as a U.S. military airfield, Princess Juliana Airport now serves as a gateway for tourists who come to explore the world's smallest bi-national island. Traveling between Dutch St. Maarten in the south and French St. Martin in the north, visitors cross an international border as unobtrusive to drivers on the road as it is to birds in the sky.

AREA	37 sq mi (96 sq km)
POPULATION	29,000 (French side); 39,000 (Dutch side)
CHIEF TOWN	Marigot (French side); Philipsburg (Dutch side)
LANGUAGE	French, Dutch, English
CURRENCY	Euro, Netherlands Antilles guilder, U.S. dollar
GOVERNMENT	Dependency of Guadeloupe, democracy (French side); part of the Netherlands Antilles, democracy (Dutch side)

St.-Barthélemy

Said to have been named for Columbus's older brother Bartholomeo, St.-Barthelemy's small size and scrubby vegetation did not encourage early colonization. After settlement by the French in 1648, the island became notorious as a hideout for buccaneers. Between 1784 and 1878 it was peacefully traded from France to Sweden and then back to France.

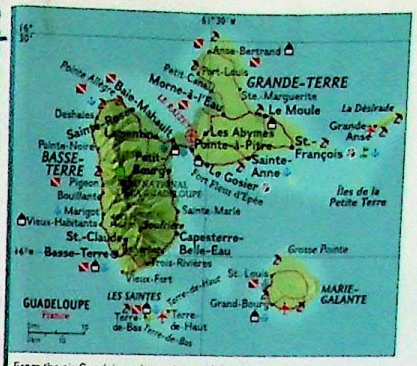
AREA	8 sq mi (21 sq km)
POPULATION	7,000
CHIEF TOWN	Gustavia
LANGUAGE	French, English
CURRENCY	Euro, U.S. dollar
GOVERNMENT	Dependency of Guadeloupe; democracy

Antigua & Barbuda

If life's a beach, Antigua, which boasts 365 of them, has a year's worth. Barbuda boasts beautiful beaches too, some with pinkish sand, but the island's lack of well-paved roads makes many of them far tougher to reach. Navigating around these islands has always been a challenge because of treacherous surrounding reefs, which have claimed nearly 150 ships since 1695.

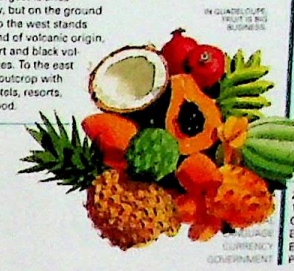
AREA	170 sq mi (440 sq km)
POPULATION	67,000
CAPITAL	St. John's
LANGUAGE	English, local dialects
CURRENCY	Eastern Caribbean dollar, U.S. dollar
GOVERNMENT	Parliamentary democracy

Guadeloupe



From the air Guadeloupe's two largest islands resemble the wings of a butterfly, but on the ground they are far from symmetrical. To the west stands Basse-Terre, a mountainous island of volcanic origin, with dense rain forests at its heart and black volcanic sands on its western beaches. To the east Grande-Terre is a low limestone outcrop with plenty of white sand beaches, hotels, resorts, and restaurants serving Creole food.

AREA	687 sq mi (1,780 sq km)
POPULATION	461,000
CAPITAL	Basse-Terre
LANGUAGE	French, Creole, some English
CURRENCY	Euro
GOVERNMENT	Overseas department of France; democracy



IN GUADELOUPE, FRUIT IS BIG BUSINESS.

Martinique

"Martinique is France. Arriving from Trinidad, you feel you have crossed not the Caribbean but the English Channel," So wrote V. S. Naipaul in *The Middle Passage* in 1962—and little has changed since then. Martinique remains a *département* of France, which is also the island's major trading partner. More than half of Martinique's principal exports —bananas, pineapples, and rum—go to France.

AREA	425 sq mi (1,100 sq km)
POPULATION	384,000
CAPITAL	Fort-de-France
LANGUAGE	French, Creole, some English
CURRENCY	Euro, U.S. dollar
GOVERNMENT	Overseas department of France; democracy

St. Lucia

Beaches and banana plantations frame St. Lucia's mountainous rain forest, home to rare and threatened species such as the St. Lucia parrot. Captured for the pet trade and hunted as a source of food, the parrots dwindled to fewer than 100 by 1971. Thanks to popular support for new forest preserves, education programs, and a hunting ban, the parrot population has rebounded to perhaps as many as 500 today.

AREA	238 sq mi (617 sq km)
POPULATION	166,000
CAPITAL	Castries
LANGUAGE	English, French patois
CURRENCY	Eastern Caribbean dollar
GOVERNMENT	Parliamentary democracy

THE ST. LUCIA PARROT WAS DESIGNATED THE NATIONAL BIRD IN 1979.

Barbados

Perched on the eastern wing of the West Indies, Barbados looks as if it might be drifting away toward Europe—and in many ways it's done just that. Ever since English settlers first arrived in 1627, the island has conveyed a distinctly British air. Even now cricket is the national sport, Queen Elizabeth II is the head of state, and Boxing Day is a public holiday. Almost half of all tourists come from the United Kingdom.

AREA	166 sq mi (430 sq km)
POPULATION	269,000
CAPITAL	Bridgetown
LANGUAGE	English
CURRENCY	Barbados dollar, U.S. dollar
GOVERNMENT	Parliamentary democracy

Netherlands Antilles

Five islands in two clusters constitute this autonomous outpost of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Curaçao and Bonaire are a short hop from mainland Venezuela, while St. Eustatius, Saba, and the southern part of St. Maarten lie some 600 miles to the northeast.

Bonaire

Every April, Bonaire celebrates Simadan, a harvest festival that's partly a reward for the communal effort required to bring in the sorghum crop. Revelers sing call-and-response songs, join in a group dance called wapa, and feast on goat stew, okra soup, beans, and sorghum pancakes.

Trinidad & Tobago

The odd couple: Trinidad is big, Tobago is small. Trinidad is a Caribbean industrial pioneer and natural giant, while cozy rural Tobago relies on tourists. Trinidad is the regional epicenter for Carnival; Tobago re-enacts many island customs native when the party is over. "Trinidad and Tobago" is often said as if it's one word, but it's hardly a simple place.

Anguilla

Only 4 percent of the labor force works in agriculture, fishing, forestry, or mining, which reflects the paucity of Anguilla's natural resources. Like so many other Caribbean islands, the local economy sinks or swims on the fortunes of two key sectors—tourism and offshore banking.

French Antilles

Also known as the French West Indies, this region comprises Martinique and the seven islands of Guadeloupe, including St. Barthélemy and part of St. Martin. While residents have sought greater political autonomy from France, few desire total independence.

St. Kitts & Nevis

Ecotourists who visit St. Kitts discover another world—lush green forests, tangled vines, a dormant volcano (3,793 foot Mount Liamuiga), and colonies of African green monkeys, which were introduced to these islands as pets in the 17th century.

Montserrat

Exploding with unsettling regularity, a volcano on Montserrat's south end has thrown almost all residents to the island's northern hills. The underlying cause of the tension: Montserrat sits atop colliding tectonic plates. Volcanic eruptions along this grindstone edge created the Lesser Antilles.

St. Vincent & the Grenadines

Subject to the whims of hurricanes and drought, bananas account for 40 percent of the island's commodity exports and employ 60 percent of the workforce. The northern Grenadines—a cluster of 30 pristine islands and cays, the largest of which covers only seven square miles—have become popular destinations for yachtsmen and the international jet set.

Grenada

Grenada suddenly appeared on the world's radar in 1983, when U.S. and Caribbean forces invaded to restore democracy following a Marxist coup. One of the smallest independent countries in the Western Hemisphere, Grenada—known as the "Isle of Spice"—ranks as the world's second largest producer of nutmeg, trailing only Indonesia, a nation more than 5,000 times larger. Other exports include cloves, cinnamon, and cocoa.

AREA	133 sq mi (344 sq km)
POPULATION	104,000
CAPITAL	St. George's
LANGUAGE	English, patois
CURRENCY	Eastern Caribbean dollar, U.S. dollar
GOVERNMENT	Parliamentary democracy

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

अमरकाश: अम

Longitude West 84° of Greenwich

GULF OF MEXICO

FLORIDA

STRAITS OF FLORIDA

TROPIC OF CANCER

ATLANTIC OCEAN

GREAT BAHAMA BANK

CARIBBEAN SEA

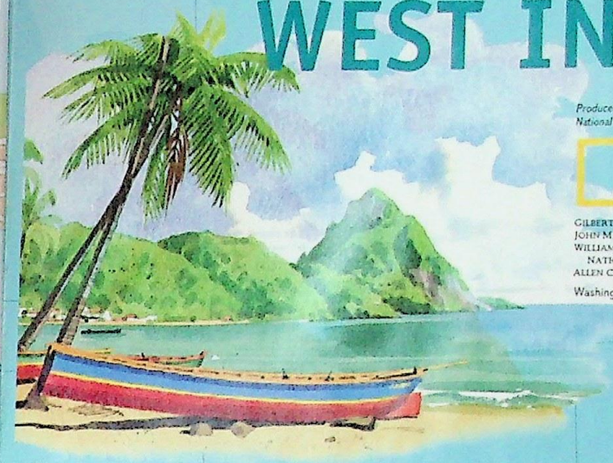
CAYMAN TRENCH

PUERTO RICO TRENCH

Fort Myers · St. James City · Pine Island · Sanibel Island · Bonita Springs · Naples · Everglades City · Cape Romano · Ten Thousand Islands · Immokalee · South Bay · Belle Glade · West Palm Beach · Lake Worth · Delray Beach · Pompano Beach · Fort Lauderale · Hollywood · Hialeah · Miami · Miami Beach · Coral Gables · Homestead · Florida City · Elliott Key · Old Rhodes Key · Biscayne Bay · Key Largo · Tavernier · Islamorada · Long Key · Marathon · Pine Islands · Big Pine Key · Summerland Key · Cudjoe Key · Sugarloaf Key · Boca Grande Key · Key West · KEY WEST NAS · Dry Tortugas · Marquesas Keys · Cape Sable · Ponce de Leon Bay · Florida Bay · Ding Darling Wildlife Refuge · Sanibel Causeway · Caloosahatchee River · Alligator Alley · Tamiami Canal · Everglades National Park · Big Cypress Swamp · Ten Thousand Islands · Gun Cay · Cat Cays · Great Isaac · Bimini Islands · Alice Town · Ocean Cay · Riding Rocks · Great Harbour Cay · Berry Is. · Bonds Cay · Chub Cay · Joulter Cays · Whale Cay · Nicholls Town · San Andros · Adelaide · Nassau · New Providence · Standard Creek · Andros Island · Williams I. · Andros Town · Bahama Point · Big Wood Cay · Mastic Point · Mosey Town · Kemps Bay · Green Cay · Water Cays · Cistern Pt. · Duck Cays · Deadman's Cays · Muertos Cays · Dog Rocks · Elbow Cays · Cay Sal Bank · Bahamas · Tamas Cays · Anguilla Cays · Cay Sal · Grand Bahama Island · Freeport · Lucaya · West End · High Rock · Great Guana Cay · Man O'War Cay · Hope Town · Marsh Harbour · Abaco Island · Cherokee Sound · Crossing Rocks · Sandy Point · Moore's I. · Gorda Cay · Northwest Providence Channel · Great Harbour Cay · Southwest Pt. · Spanish Wells · The Bluff · Current · Dunmore Town · Alice Town · Governor's Harbour · Eleuthera · North Palmetto Point · Tarpum Bay · Island · Rock Sound · Deep Creek · Wemyss Bight · Bannerman Town · Flamingo Point · Arthur's Town · Little San Salvador · Cat Island · New Bight · Old Bight · Port Howe · Devil's Point · Columbus Monument · Clarence Town · Conception I. · San Salvador (Watling) · Dublin I. · C. Santa Maria · Rolleville · George Town · Great Exuma · Little Exuma · Hog Cay · Long I. · Deadman's Cay · Clarence Town · Crooked I. · Acklins I. · Northeast Point · Snug Corner · Fortune Hill · Pirate Cove · Acklins · Mayaguana Island · Abraham's Bay · Water Cay · Flamingo Cay · Man-of-War Cay · Jamaica Cay · Sea Cay · Nurse Cay · Raccoon Cay · Long Cay (Fortune I.) · Albert Town · Ragged I. · Duncan Town · Little Ragged I. · The Brothers · Castle Island · Mayaguana Passage · Caicos Bank · Grand Turk · Cockburn Town · Salt Cay · Grand Turk Islands · Salt Cay · Bottle Creek · Leeward · Blue Hills · Providenciales · West Caicos · Grand Caicos · East Caicos · Cockburn Harbour · South Caicos · Caicos Islands · Ambergris Cays · Sal Cays · TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS · United Kingdom · Little Inagua I. · Great Inagua Island · Matthew Town · Inagua Passage · Mouchoir Passage · Silver Bank · Silver Bank Passage · Navidad Bank · Caicos Passage · Turks Island Passage · Jamaica Channel · Northwest Channel · Old Bahama Channel · Nicholas Channel · Providence Channel · Exuma Sound · Tongue of the Ocean · Yucatan Channel · Florida Straits · Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary · Dry Tortugas National Park · Gulf Stream · Loop Current · Mississippi River Delta · Mississippi Canyon · Sigsbee Deep · Sigsbee Escarpment · Mississippi Fan · Mississippi Trough · Mississippi Cone · Mississippi Valley · Mississippi Plain · Mississippi Ridge · Mississippi Terrace · Mississippi Basin · Mississippi Abyssal Plain · Mississippi Seamount · Mississippi Rise · Mississippi Gap · Mississippi Channel · Mississippi Delta

अमेरिकोश: अम
Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

WEST INDIES



Produced by National Geographic Maps for National Geographic Magazine

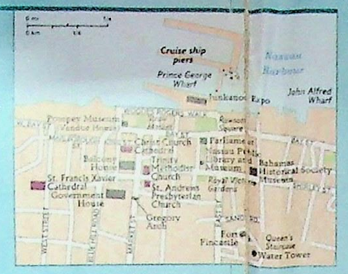
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

GILBERT M. GROSVENOR, CHAIRMAN
JOHN M. FAHEY, JR., PRESIDENT AND CEO
WILLIAM L. ALLEN, EDITOR IN CHIEF
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE
ALLEN CARROLL, CHIEF CARTOGRAPHER

Washington, D.C., March 2003

Nassau
BAHAMAS

One of Nassau's oldest buildings, Vendue House served as the public market in the 18th and 19th centuries, when Africans were sold here to work on British plantations. Vendue House is now the Pompey Museum, named after a slave who led an uprising in 1830. Today the descendants of slaves dominate, at least demographically: 85 percent of the population is black.

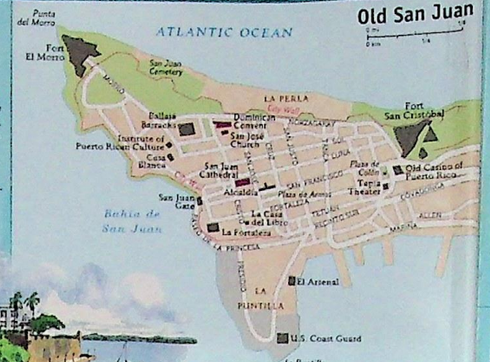


The Bahamas are made of limestone, which erodes easily. As a result, the islands are laced with extensive networks of underwater caves called blue holes. Once largely the domain of sport divers, they have now captured the attention of scientists with the discovery of Remipedia—a cave-dwelling, centipede-like crustacean long believed to be extinct.

San Juan
PUERTO RICO

Columbus named this island San Juan, and Ponce de León christened the main harbor Puerto Rico. But the names were reversed in the 16th century (no one knows just how or why), and the "wrong" names still endure. Also still standing: the walls of old San Juan (below), which served as a strategic point of defense for the Spanish Caribbean.

Old San Juan



Map Legend

- Limited-access highway
- Other road
- Airport
- Country capital
- Dependency or region capital
- Volcano

Water Depth

FEET	METERS
Less than 660	Less than 200
660 - 5900	200 - 1800
5900 - 12,140	1800 - 3700
12,140 - 18,050	3700 - 5500
18,050 - 23,950	5500 - 7300
More than 23,950	More than 7300

Oblique Mercator Projection
SCALE 1:3,737,000 or 1 INCH = 59 MILES
KILOMETERS 0 50 100 150 200
STATUTE MILES 0 50 100 150 200

Abbreviations

B.	Bahía, Baie, Bocht
I.	Isla, Island
L.	Lago, Laguna
Mt., Mte.	Montagne, Monte
Pen.	Península
Pt., Pta.	Point, Punta
Sa.	Serra, Sierra
St.	Saint, Sant, Sint

Geographic Equivalents

Archipiélago	archipelago
Bahía, Baie, Bocht	bay
Cabo, Cap	cape
Cay, Cayo	low island
Golfe, Golfo	gulf
Ile, Isla	island
Mont, Montagne, Morne	mountain
Pico	peak
Pointe, Punta	cape, point

Charlotte Amalie
U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

Capital of this U.S. territory, Charlotte Amalie was a busy slave port when these islands were a colony of Denmark. That era came to an end in 1848, when Danish Governor Peter von Scholten freed the slaves in a declaration he delivered in what now is Emancipation Garden. These days ships arriving in port are filled with tourists, eager to wander the narrow streets of this mountainside city and do a little tax-free shopping.

Havana
CUBA

How best to fortify Havana against pirates and an aggressive British fleet? In the 16th century Spain's King Philip II built El Morro (above) and La Punta, two heavily armed forts bracketing the entrance to Havana Bay. (The current lighthouse was added in 1844.) Slaves toiled 40 years to complete these compounds, which helped the Spanish fend off repeated attacks by the British Navy.

The word "hurricane" is derived from the native Taíno word for winds unleashed by an angry goddess. From July through November locals keep watch for her. Hammered repeatedly, the U.S. Virgin Islands observe Hurricane Supplication Day each July to pray for safety during the storm season.

Sailing on the Atlantic trade winds—the steady breezes that blow westward—Spanish sailors dubbed this corner of the West Indies the Windward Islands. Later the British, for purely bureaucratic reasons, named the archipelago to the north the Leeward Islands. Volcanoes made all these islands and, at times, have unmade them. In 1902, 30,000 people died on Martinique when Mount Pelée blew its top.

Lesser Antilles, Greater Antilles—what in the world is an "antille"? Antilia was the name medieval Europeans gave to a mythical archipelago they believed existed somewhere across the Atlantic. After Columbus arrived in the West Indies, the name found itself a real home.

Haiti stems from a word meaning "mountainous land" in the language of the Taíno, the native people of this island. Today's inhabitants farm every tillable parcel of the steep terrain, clearing trees in the process. With only 2 percent of its original forest remaining, Haiti wrestles with ways of halting erosion.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar